

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/709,435

Response filed July 19, 2005

Reply to OA dated April 19, 2005

REMARKS:

Claims 1-5 and 7-9 are currently being considered, of which claim 1 has been amended. No new claims have been added, and no new matter has been introduced.

Applicants and Applicants' attorney thank Examiner Emily Y. Chan for the interview courteously granted July 14, 2005. The special attention the Examiner paid to the instant application is noted with appreciation. Items discussed during the Interview include: USP 6,680,536 (**Hattori '536**); and the rejection of claims 1-5 and 7-9 under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over **Hattori '536**.

Claims 1-5 and 7-9 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over USP 6,680,536 (**Hattori '536**).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1, as amended, sets forth the following features: "the top portion of the probe is brought into contact with an electrode of the measurement objective and elastically deformed and thereby a distal end of said second quarter arc portion is brought into contact with said base plate and slides", in combination with the other claimed features.

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The amendments to claim 1 are intended to more clearly define the present claimed invention, particularly, because the distal end of the second quarter circle arc portion is brought into contact with the base plate and slides, a load to the probe caused by overdriving can be dispersed and the probe improves in strength. The amendments to claim 1 are supported by the original disclosure (see page 3, line 22 to page 4, line 19, for example).

Hattori '536 fails to describe, teach, or suggest the following features set forth in claim 1, as amended: "the top portion of the probe is brought into contact with an electrode of the measurement objective and elastically deformed and thereby a distal end of said second quarter arc portion is brought into contact with said base plate and slides", in combination with the other claimed features.

Contact piece 3 of **Hattori '536** does not contact substrate 1 and slide.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the above rejection should be withdrawn.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, all claims currently being considered are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

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If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,
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